



Mrs. Lavinia B. Sheldon.
P. O. Box 100.
Dane Co. Wis.



Love to you all
- from your brother
- James P.

Malone N.Y. Oct. 18th 1863

My ever Dear Sister Lavinia

How glad I am to again

acknowledge the receipt of your late letter
of Oct. 12. But am sorry to find that
your health is so poorly. I should like
to be so situated that we could often meet
& enjoy that pleasure which none but
Brothers & Sisters know, I trust Eternity
will favor us with an opportunity of
again renewing our social enjoyments which
have been severed here by unlamented
distance between our localities. yet still
do I cling to the hope of visiting our own
family relations in the Western States, it
certainly would afford me much pleasure
to do so. I presume I do not grow old so fast as
those less spiritually minded than I am - for true
it is, the letter killeth, while the spirit giveth
Life

I am veray glad those papers reached you
& that you like to peruse them I renewed my
Subscription on your account & have quite
number on hand which I will send before
long. Julia has got about through with
Her Summers visit among old & new ac-
quaintances. & will here in a few days to glad
in our hearts with her presence & after
she has looked over the Banners I will
Mail them to you & hope you will
be helped by the once Loved ones of Earth
to understand & appreciate the real value
of what those papers contain not that
every article published in those papers are
free from error, by no means. But
one thing I do hope, & that is, that you
will read them with an unbiased mind
so that the Spirit of truth may have
its natural effect on your own spirit,
You know Savinia. I have Confidence in your

integrity & ability to Comprehend the
truth when fairly presented to your
mind. & think you will be much ben-
fitted by a prayerful reading of
the Banner of Light. I hope you will
seek & strive earnestly to attract the good
& pure of the higher spheres to your assist-
ance both to gain spiritual light & strength
& also physical health. - & have you no
Healing Mediums in your vicinity?
& are there no spiritual meetings that
you can attend? Spiritualists are becom-
ing very numerous in every civilized
Nation on the Globe - Do not take a
mysterious view of this subject - but a straight
forward Commonsensical view as all other sub-
jects ever ought to be looked at -
Let you unprejudiced Clear minded
neighbors have the reading of your papers
& dont be afraid nor ashamed to talk

any reasonable person even your ministers
should they chance to come within range of
your shots. I hope your furnishing nei-
ghbors will not be suffered to starve while
you have the very food which they so much
hunger & thirst for in this our day of
the true knowledge of Light & salvation

I wish that I could spend one season
with you & the rest of our Brethren
Children & grand Children - I can't
bear to think of their plodding on
through this wretched state of existence
unmindful of ^{their} things but the Almighty
Dollar, the love of which is the root of
all evils

I am much obliged to you
for Sister Marys address, will soon
give her my address, Can't you and Sam-
uel come to Vermont & of this part of
your State I see us next season & earnestly
hope we go there to ever see you again in this
earth, & do you hear any thing of late from
Lyman & the Barlow's folks? Your Brother
my love to Samuel & all
J. M. Ballard